

SOCIAL CHIT-CHAT.

Some of the Polite Deceits to Which the Fair Sex are Mostly Addicted.

The Leaders of the German—Delay in Issuing Invitations—Summer Outings.

Gossip About the Coming Performances of "Erminie"—Personal Mention—Notes and Queries.

The social world is responsible for a great deal of humbug which masquerades under such titles as tact, diplomacy and white lies, and before either a man or woman becomes thoroughly fitted to shine in the social world they pass through a competitive examination for which an Ananias could have never been qualified.

Go to any tea, reception, or social gathering where conversation forms the staple amusement, and listen to the guileless maid and church-going matron discussing their neighbor's good qualities and faults; and if you have never heard a conversation similar to the following, you will at least recognize its resemblance to the truth:

"My dear Mrs. Featherweight, I am delighted to see you. Do let us sit down and have a sociable chat. You know I have been intending to come and see you for I do not know how long, but domestic duties, etc.—of course you know how it is."

Mrs. Featherweight—Oh, of course, my dear Mrs. Tealalee; but it is just as well you did not come. I have been so overrun with visitors—not a moment to call my own—and when you come I want to have you all to myself.

Mrs. Tealalee—How sweet of you to say so, and really the social set here is so mixed it is good to have one friend like yourself.

Mrs. Featherweight—"Well, no one appreciates that fact more than I do when I meet you anywhere. Gracious! here comes that odious Mrs. Moneybags. But one has to be polite to those people. What are you going to? Well, good-bye, dear Mrs. Moneybags. I am glad to see you. Do come and sit with me a little while. You know that funny little woman, Mrs. Tealalee, who has just left me?"

Mrs. Moneybags—Yes, I have met her, but she is poor as a church mouse, and very conceited.

Mrs. Featherweight—"That's just it. She always irritates me so; but then what can you expect? Her father, poor man, drank himself to death, and her mother was a missionary or a school teacher, I forget which."

Mrs. Moneybags—Hm! What is her husband?

Mrs. Featherweight—Oh, don't you know? Well, I must—etc., etc., ad nauseum.

The foregoing may be said to represent social diplomacy.

"White lies" are told so frequently that no one regards them as anything more than one of the necessary objections due to polite society.

When Mrs. Gossip leaves word with her maid of all work that she is out she does not expect Miss Candor to believe it, and Miss Candor probably does not, but leaves a card and a sigh of relief at the door.

When Miss Shallow tells Mr. Soft that she has heard so much about him, and sincerely hopes that she will see a great deal of him, she lays herself open to the declaration which he afterwards makes to his bosom friend, Mr. Simple, "that he thinks that Shallow girl an awfully nice lot and intends to go in for her."

And strange as it may seem there are very few women who have the courage to tell the truth; it is so much easier to say a pleasant thing than to hurt anybody's feelings or tread upon the proverbial corn.

Of course men are not called upon to make as many excuses as the gentler sex, but sincerity is a very rare virtue even among men, and the man who does a favor in our days without calculating upon some return is a rara avis who will bear stuffing and a glass case.

THE GERMAN.

There has been some little talk engendered by the unnecessary delay in getting out the invitations for the German next week, the 3d prox., and I have heard that a club meeting was called and some deal indulged in. There can be no doubt but that even two weeks is rather short notice of a German where gentlemen have to secure partners, especially in a town like Helena, where the sterner sex predominates, and one week is certainly a very brief period in which to prepare for such a festive occasion as the German promises to be. Girls also have dresses to get ready, and the dressmakers here have their hands so full at present that it would be surprising to learn that one or two young ladies will be disappointed and have to wear an old gown. However, this will all be forgotten when the German is under way, and it is reasonable to suppose that this will be the most brilliant affair of the season. Messrs. George Hill and S. E. Atkinson will lead the German from either end without partners, and Baron George R. Metten and Mr. E. W. Knight, with party as dead freight and no young lady or gentleman under sixteen to embarrass the rest by their obvious presence, a very jolly time may be had.

GOSSIP ABOUT "ERMINIE."

As already published in this paper during the week, the dates for "Erminie" have been fixed for May 8 and 9 in Helena, and the 11th in Butte. The terms offered by Manager Maguire for the latter town amply demonstrate that he regards it as a very strong attraction, and I expect that even at \$1.50 a seat, the only standing room left during the two performances given here.

The wig which Mr. Wallace will wear as Cadeaux is made in precisely the same style as that worn by Wilson at the Casino, and was built by Charles Meyer, of New York, the wig-maker who so deftly fitted Mr. Wilson to take rank in appearance at least, as a first class thief.

Some of the costumes will be very handsome, and Miss Sadler as the Princess tells her hoopskirt will measure about four yards in circumference. What a great pity we do not wear such costumes now. No great difficulty would then be experienced in keeping a gentleman at arm's length.

The Encore club have closed with the Electric Light company and will take a five year's lease of the upper story of that building. A permanent stage will be built and movable seats with a seating accommodation of between five and six hundred will be introduced. There will be two entrances, one on the west side of the build-

ing near the chimney, the other—the main entrance—on the east side. Dressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen will be provided in addition to those for theatrical purposes near the stage.

At an informal meeting held by the Encore club, the other evening, there was a strong opposition made to raising the price of seats for the two performances here, and a compromise was partly effected that sections A, B, C and D should be sold at \$1.25 a seat, the remaining seats at \$1, and upstairs, as usual, 50 cents. Since then, however, one of the strongest opposers to raising the price to \$1.50 have become convinced that any man who would pay \$1.25 for a seat would pay \$1.50, and that a greater objection would come from selling four sections at an advance of a quarter than if the whole house were sold at a higher price. A good local performance like "Erminie" will always draw a good crowd, and as they are going to auction the boxes off half a dollar extra on seats is certainly not exorbitant.

THE BOOK WORMS.

The literary society met at the residence of Mrs. Lyell Simmes on Tuesday evening last, and in addition to nearly all the original members several new disciples were added to the fold. Papers were read by Dr. Leiser, who dwelt at length on the manners and customs of our British cousins, "donner know," and whose effort was loudly applauded. Messrs. Melrose and Dabney furnished some personal reminiscences of the battle field, and Mr. Simpson recited. Instrumental music was furnished by Mrs. and Miss Kane and Messrs. Bernard Kelly and Horace Kane, and the evening's entertainment concluded with the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet," in which two young ladies impersonated the love-sick twain. The Romeo was adjudged excellent, while the Juliet was generally pronounced to be a very charming and interesting impersonation, by no means devoid of dramatic instinct, and a great surprise even to the young lady's most enthusiastic admirers. Supper and "And Lang Syne," sung by every member present who could remember another verse, brought a very delightful evening to a close.

It is now almost an assured fact that an amateur dramatic company will be organized in Helena. There is plenty of available talent here, and a good many long winter evenings could be wiled away in rehearsals and the necessary preparation for making a little nest egg for sweet charity's sake.

PERSONAL.

Charles Everett, who was looking after Mr. Nicholson's business while the latter was in England, has gone to Livingston, where he is about to embark in business with Mr. Lowndes. Mr. Everett made a host of friends while he was in Helena and is sure of making a success in his new venture.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davis returned from their trip to the eastern cities on Saturday, accompanied by Miss Nellie New of Indiana, who is a niece of John C. New, lately appointed consul general to London. Miss New intends to make her home here.

Mr. W. F. Whitaker (of the Montana Central office) and wife leave to-day for Iowa and Nebraska. Mr. W. will return in about two weeks, but Mrs. W. will spend the summer east, extending her visit to New York.

Miss Frankie Horst, the charming young society lady of Butte who paid Helena a visit last fall, is expected to-day. She will remain until after the "German," and will be the guest of Miss Laura King.

Miss Mattie Evans, one of the society belles of Butte, will arrive to-day and be the guest of her sister, Mrs. James Childs. She will remain until after the "German."

Mr. Kane has returned from San Francisco, where several very spicy letters to the Argonaut on the Irish question have appeared over his signature.

The invitations issued for the German looked as if they had been written hurriedly in the dark. The German, however, will surpass the invitations.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Fisk have returned from Salt Lake. Their niece, Miss Stella Salisbury, will spend the summer with them.

George Martin, of Great Falls, left for the east on Thursday. He goes to St. Louis in connection with some important mining matters.

D. A. Cory left for the east on Thursday. His visit will probably extend well into the summer months.

Alec Devine has gone to Augusta. He is plotting out some real estate ideas of his own.

Mrs. W. C. Child returned from quite a lengthy visit to the east yesterday.

Miss Mabel Martin is shortly expected to visit some friends in Helena.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

"Is it the correct thing to wear gloves at a dance? And if so what kind?" asks Harry. Social custom compels a man to carry gloves, but does not oblige him to put them on. Pearl color or white with broad black stitching on the back.

"What is the correct thing for half mourning in full evening dress?" To stay home. You could wear a black neck tie, black studs, no watch chain, a white vest and a mournful smile.

"Can I wear a gold watch chain with full evening dress? Are small diamond studs in good taste? Is the fob chain being worn much now, and the steel chain attached to your keys?" A gold chain, providing it is not very conspicuous, would be all right. Diamond studs are not considered as good form as either plain gold or small pearl. The fob chain is still worn by the dude element. Steel chains are worn, but a padlock round the neck is almost as appropriate.

BEESWING.

With the warm weather dancing will have to give way to lighter and less laborious amusements. Oamping out parties are, I hear, likely to be popular this summer, and while I am free to confess that I like chicken salad quite as well as an oak table without any flies in it, yet at the same time, gentlemen tell me, a good day's sport with a light rod and a pretty girl on the bank is always enjoyable, even when the party in your fish getting away and yourself being landed. The Gate of the Mountains offers a really good day's outing, and provided that the right kind of party gets together, with no unwieldy matron to carry as dead freight and no young lady or gentleman under sixteen to embarrass the rest by their obvious presence, a very jolly time may be had.

CHANGE OF TIME.

Through Chair Cars to Kansas City.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railway, "Albert Lea Route," ever ready to meet the demands of the traveling public, upon March 17th, 1899, inaugurated a through chair car service between St. Paul, Minneapolis and Kansas City, leaving St. Paul daily, except Sunday, at 9:10 a. m., Minneapolis at 9:50 a. m.

These cars are models of perfection and in many respects are superior to those run by any road. The interior is finished in selected and exquisitely polished woods of mahogany, cherry and oak. The curtains, carpets, etc., in harmony of design and color form an ensemble pleasing to the eye and gratifying to a cultivated taste.

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YOU are hereby notified that a meeting of the stockholders of the Boulder Valley Ditch, Mining and Milling company, a corporation duly incorporated under and by virtue of the laws of Montana Territory, will be held at the office of A. M. Holter & Bro., being the office of said company, in the city of Helena, county of Lewis and Clark, territory of Montana, on Friday, May 5, 1899, at 2 o'clock, p. m.

A bond with two sufficient sureties in a sum of at least twenty (20) per cent. of the gross amount must accompany each proposal.

The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order of the City Council.
ALEX. C. MCKIN, City Clerk.
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